The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

We are able to anounce that the All-India Poultry Exhibition will take place in Calcutta early in January. Schedules and entry forms will be available during next month, and it is hoped that all fanciers will support the show, either with entries or donations.

Mrs. Lacey has very kindly undertaken to receive the entries, and exhibitors are reminded to fill in entry forms in duplicate. A lot of unnecessary time is usually spent in having to return entries that have not been sent in compliance with the rules.

As Honorary Secretary of the Club we have been asked to act as Honorary Show Secretary. Readers will have read that our time has been fully occupied with other work than poultry for the past six months, and to enable us to comply with this request, we must appeal to all club members for their united support. Unless this is forthcoming the show will have to suffer, and possibly be abandoned, for we can only do our best in soliciting help, it is for members and fanciers to do the rest.

Governments, so far, have given us very little help indeed, and this year there is a possibility that grants will be reduced. We have received Rs. 100/- from H. E. The Governor of Assam. Rs. 300/- promised from H. E. H. The Nizam. The Government of Bengal usually grant Rs. 300/- and in past years the Bihar Government have donated Rs. 200/- Every bit of this money will be required to ensure the success of the show, and we want to make it a *real* All-India. Without at least Rs. 1,000/- in hand before we commence with the show it will be a hard scrape. We therefore trust that by taking members into our confidence, the support needed will be sportingly given.

The end of our financial year is upon us, and members subscriptions will be due on 1st November. If notification of resignation is not received in our office before the 25th instant, we shall continue to send out the membership card per V. P. unless otherwise instructed. Now is the time for new members to join up, especially in view of the shows, where the advantage of competing in the closed sections cannot be denied, and even those that do not exhibit can be assured of being cared for by the club. If you keep fowls it is your duty to join, and make our voice better heard amongst the official governments. Our hope of increasing the membership roll by 100% has not materialised, but we are pleased to see so many new names, although many of the older members have dropped out. Only a few know how hard it has been this year to keep things going. The political situation has even affected the poultry industry, but, now that the winter season is coming along, we sincerely trust that better prospects are in store for us all, and that a beeter feeling will be felt among us. As poultry-keepers we cannot afford to let politics interfere with the one industry that can be the salvation of many thousands in this country.

VITALITY IN OUR BREEDING STOCKS.

By "Progress."

The need of the moment in our breeds of poultry in India is stamina. The failure to provide favourable surroundings and the proper attention to feeding and management has weakened many strains: so much so that individual birds have lost vigour, the fertility of the males has weakened, and the resulting offspring are very inferior in consequence.

A close observation will convince us that almost every breed and variety of poultry in India becomes less hardy and still less rearable; our anxiety in rearing grows with the seasons, and, if a remedy is not speedily found to arrest this, we must prepare for most serious consequences in the near future. The epidemic of the last year should be proof enough to all poultry keepers in India of the great necessity of providing sutitable life-conditions for our improved breeds of poultry, and of studying more closely the principles of nutrition and laws of sanitation. Birds of excellent quliaty are imported into India year by year, but in how many of these is this standard of excellence maintained, or even better still further improved by judicious care in feeding and management and by the provision of conditions favourable to the maintenance of this superiority. For it must be borne in mind that this superiority owes its existence to certain conditions and its permanence is assured only so long as these conditions endure. Well bred stock cannot give satisfaction under primitive, unimproved conditions of living; they must at the least be as good as those enjoyed from the superior strains from which the parents were chosen, if we are maintain unimpaired the superiority to which these strains owe their value.

Summing up the whole question briefly, a mature bird represents the result of the possibilities that were born in it, modified by the influence of environment, that is to say by the opportunities for development offered by the conditions under which the bird has grown up. The chicken may be of the best breeding but its environment during the growing stage may be such that the bird arrives at maturity lacking the beauty and other good qualities it should have possessed had its surroundings been favourable. Do poultry keepers in India systematically bear in mind that the immense benefits derived from proper nourishment and healthy normal development during the rearing and growing period remain with the bird through life? It is to be feared not, for despite the bitter fruits of experiencee, no single adverse influence, excepting only the deteriorating effect of indiscriminate breeding from weakly constitutional stock, is causing to-day more widespread loss of stamina in our poultry yards than is the neglect to provide the environment conducive to highest possible development, and the danger is the greater in that it is not often recognised, in that we attribute the consequent unthrift and lack of vitality to anything but their true causes.

Environment is a factor constantly acting for the good or for the bad. As the surroundings tend to bring about the desired results in environmental conditions, rapid and uniform development is attained from the very beginning. The growth which a chicken makes is determined, in part, by the vigour and vitality of the parent stock; and the condition of the parent stock, also, in turn, is largely influenced by the surroundings to which they were subjected. The external conditions, such as shelter and food, influence to a great extent the characteristics of the offspring at maturity, and they affect indirectly the future possibilities of the individual.

It should be the aim of every poultry keeper to constantly study his birds, and by careful selection and elimination, keep fewer but better birds. Selection should be consistently practised, not only in the breeding pen, but in the elimination of weak or sick birds throughout the entire rearing and growing period. From the time of hatching, all weak chickens, whether due to faulty environment or to lack of inherited vitality, should be weeded out of the stock. The remainder should be provided with ideal environmental conditions. The maintenance of their vigour is essentially within the control of the breeder.

Another important factor in the environment is the supply of food, which must be sufficient in amount, wholesome, and of the right degree of concentration.

All the problems of environment can be most safely solved by planning everything with a view to the comfort of the birds.

(See column 2 on next page).

FOR THE BEGINNER.

The fact that it is a weak trait in human nature to blame everybody, and everything except ourselves, when all the time we are makers of our own destiny, is a point frequqently lost sight of. The difference between success and failure in any walk of life is the difference in the individuals in that walk. When one man makes a success of poultry-keeping another will make a ghastly failure. The latter would fail under any conditions. The whole trouble is that so many people imagine that poultry can be left to look after themselves. You do not do this in any other business so why think it can be done with poultry. Providing that the stock is sound and that business principles are insisted on throughout the undertaking, success is assured.

GROWING STOCKS.

Young chicks, to develop into profitable stock, must receive good, wholesome, nutritious food. Size, vigour and constitutional vitality will never be achieved by poor and improper feeding. All young pullets must be fully matured before they commence to lay and should not be forced in any way. A good mash for growing pullets is 2 parts Bran, 4 parts Middlings (Atta), 1 part gram or pea meal, 1 part maize meal and 1 part fish meal. All parts by weight. See that the growing stock have an abundance of oyster shell grit, green food and fresh drinking water. Do not run chickens of all sizes and ages together. Remember also to cull out any wasters as they are spotted. The remainder should be provided with ideal conditions. The maintenence of their vigour is essentially within the control of the poultry-keeper. Remember that a check in growth, due to improper housing or feeding conditions, may retard the ultimate development many weeks, resulting in smaller birds with low vitality.

In feeding young growing chicks plenty of skim milk or butter milk should be given supplemented with an abundance of green food. Proper growth is impossible without these two essentials.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Proper housing is essential to secure the best results from your fowls. The comfortable and contented hen is the one that shows the profit. A poultry

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Cleanliness and sanitary surroundings are very essential as they tend to minimise the danger of communicable diseases and create an atmosphere of contentment.

Birds which are kept by man in a state of domestication are dependent upon him for food and shelter, which largely make up their environment, and a careful and proper regulation of this is essential if the inherited qualities are to be given opportunity for their highest development. The influence of environment on future generations is of paramount importance. All conditions and operations included in the care and management of birds will more or less influence the individual, and so leave their mark upon the offspring ; lack of proper environment may tear down and soon destroy all that has been accomplished by years of hard work in selection and breeding, hence the necessity of fully understanding the requirements of birds, before experimenting with the laws of breeding. Though we do not lack good type in most breeds, poultry breeding means more that the more reproduction of the species. It means the development and mating of individuals that will produce offspring of greater merit than the parents: and the aim of every breeder should be the improvement of his stock in the direction he desires. He must always bear in mind the general principle that the road to permanent improvement lies through individuals that exhibit unmistakable evidence of perfect health and constitutional vigour and that are well developed before they produce progeny intended for future breeding. Briefly, he must breed for what he wants, and, bearing in mind that "like begets like" systematically breed from the best.

Without a "good bringing up" involving complete nutrition, the possibilities of perfection inherited from the parents are at the best only partialy realised. Every improvement in feeding and sanitation means less sickness, stronger chickens, and other things being equal a healthier and so better type in the next generation, for the results of good nourishment and proper environment are transmitted to the offspring in the form of constitutional vigour.

PLAYING THE GAME.

Essentially British, this phrase is known and acted up to by all good sportsmen. The man who plays for his own hand is of little use to his team. More often than not he is a handicap as he frustrates those combined movements by which the success of his side is acheived.

ARE YOU PLAYING THE GAME?

This question we would put before all readers of the Gazette, and to all those interested in Poultry. The Indian Poultry Club needs your help. It is in need of your loyality and co-operation. If the Club is to become the predominant power that its officials anticipate and desire, it has the need of funds; it requires that everyone interested in poultry culture should become a member of the Club; and there must be loyalty, unity and co-ordination of effort.

'Play the Game' should be the motto of all those who desire to advance poultry culture in India, and none should be lacking in that loyalty and unity which is so essential to success.

No one can deny that, properly worked, the Indian Poultry Club should be a great power for good in the poultry industry, and that through its efforts, not only will the industry become stronger and stronger commercially, but that its influence will be such as to command the respect and attention of the several Provincial Goverments and high official authorities throughout the country.

These bodies will be greatly influenced by such an organisation as the Indian Poultry Club representing the whole strength of the poultry industry in India, whereas they will not by the position which the Club holds at the present time. Unity is strength. The Club needs all the members it can secure to advance its position and increase its influence throughout the poultry world in this country.

The future of the Club is in the hands of its members. Are they content to let the Club be a byword; or do they intend it to be, what it should be, the guardian of the Fancy and the governing body of the industry.

To those who are not members, it is your duty to join, and induce others to become members of an institution that can, by its greater numbers, command respect from the Government.

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house should allow plenty of fresh air and sunlight, should be dry and easily cleaned and be free from draughts. The size of the stock will govern the size of the house. As an average, four square feet of floor space should be allowed per bird. For example, a house 10 feet by 10 feet will accommodate 25 birds. For sleeping purposes allow 10 cubic feet of air space for each bird. Let the house face south-east so as to catch some sunshine. There are many types of good houses, but the lean-to, open-fronted type is the most suitable for average conditions.

The secret of the full egg-basket lies as much in correct feeding and proper management as in the selection of breed or strain.

Lessons do not end with your school days. The observant man is never too old to learn. This is just as true of the science of practical poultry keeping as of anything else. For instance, it is an unsound method to feed birds for egg-production with inferior meals, and then, in the effort to get eggs, add forcing condiments to the mash. Such a method is contrary to common sense and sound freeding methods. People who are continually taking stimulants or tonics are not healthy. The same thing holds good among poultry. It is healthy hen or pullet who lays the most eggs, and you can never have healthy birds unless you feed them correctly. Give a perfectly wholesome balanced ration and good results will follow.

Keep your eye on disease. Let the birds' droppings by your guide, and directly an ailing bird is detected remove it to fresh quarters, lest the other stock should be affected. Special attention must be paid to sanitation. Be scrupulously clean and regular in attention to the birds. Spray out the houses and clean thoroughly all removable fittings. Needless to add, water must be kept clean and in the shade and renewed twice daily.

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Our many clients will share with the Association the pride they have in announcing that at the recent All-India Show, out of eighteen exhibits entered all won awards with the exception of one pullet.

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SELECTING THE BREEDERS.

By "Poultryman."

Preparation for the breeding season should be made in good time because it is no use picking out a few birds at the last moment in the hope that they will turn out to be good breeders. When a breeding pen is to be mated up for the purpose of raising exhibition stock or specially good egg producers, particular methods of selection must be adopted, and a few remarks on the subject may be helpful to the uninitiated.

In-breeding, or breeding between closely related males and females, has the effect of fixing certain characters. The exhibition breeder adopts this method; but it is one which requires careful management, and it may prove disastrous in the hands of an inexperienced person.

A point to be borne in mind is that while in-breeding helps to fix certain desirable character, it may aggravate others that are not disirable; and if practised continuously it will certainly lead to physical deterioration, with loss of utility character.

Even the skilled utility breeder adopts a modified form of in-breeding to fix productive character; but the fact that actual production depends on the vigour and stamina emphasises the invigorating effect of fresh blood from time to time.

The present is the best time to purchase cockerels, since one has a better choice early in season, and the birds can be conditioned and mated up ready for early breeding operations. February hatched males should be in excellent fettle for early breeding, while March hatched birds will be suitable for pens from which eggs are not to be set before January.

It is necessary to select the breeding stock in good time because early hatching is coming more generally in vogue, and breeders realising that early chickens are always profitable. The most profitable chickens are those which are hatched from December to the end of February.

It should be understood that breeding stock require different feeding from laying stock. In the

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latter case a stimulating diet is given to encourage rapid egg production, whereas breeding stock should not be stimulated, and a sound nourishing diet will be more conducive to fertility. Even in the winter season breeding stock should only be given a limited quantity of meat or meat substitute, and egg production should on no account be artificially stimulated.

The question sometimes arises as to how long it takes for fertile eggs to be produced after the birds have been mated, and how long they will continue to be fertile after the male has been removed. Although it is undesirable to lay down any hard and fast rules, it is adviseable to allow a generous margin. Scientists, however, have been able to trace fertility a few hours after mating, though an egg must be fertilised before it passes into the oviduct. As a general rule it is safe to let a fortnight elapse after mating before eggs are set, by which time the birds should have settled down, and a vigorous male should ensure fertile eggs from all hens.

When the male is removed from the pen, fertile eggs may still be laid for a week or two, or until each bird has finished producing the batch that was fertilised. Fertile eggs have been found three weeks after a male has been removed; but in others, fertility may cease after two or three days. From these facts it will be seen that eggs are fertilised by the batch, and not singly from day to day as is sometimes assumed.

REAL CULTURE.

By Wayfarer.

I like tame birds of any kind be they canary, pigeons, fowls, ducks, geese or turkeys; but I do detest the insolent overbearing feathered swaggerers who think my Home is theirs, and who, under a pretence of tameness seek entrance into the house on the look-out for a chance to guzzle and destroy; and when driven forth with maledictions smash up the crockery and befoul all the place.

(See on next page).

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1.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

By Geo. Howard, Sperrin Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin, England.

Disease.—Since writing my last notes in which I mentioned this subject in connection with an outbreak in the yard of a friend in the East, a visitor to my farm told me of a case of an outbreak of coccidiosis among his chicks. His chicks are brooded in one of the usual large brooder houses, which is heated by hot water pipes, the chicks being in separate compartments in batches of approximately 100. While attending to the chicks he was paid a visit by a neighbour who stayed chatting for about half an hour. A few days later he noticed that some of the chicks in the house, in several of the compartments, had the symptoms of coccidiosis. He took usual steps to combat this disease but lost several hundreds of his chicks. He has since found out that neighbour had lost hundreds with the same disease which was rampant in his yard at the time

(*See on next page*).

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They are not tame, they merely assume an air of tameness to cover a desire to commit crimes. I have at present a young turkey of four months of age, which is not only tame but companionable. It is a white bird and is the sole survivor of four I hatched out; but the eggs had been kept over long before being given me for hatching, with the result that of the four hatched from half a dozen eggs, only one survived.

A gift of eggs is like charity, "who gives at once gives twice." This bird was kept in a large portable wire-netted coop, but the foster mother hen soon pined for the society of her kind, or suspected that the young turkey could not possibly be her own; anyhow, she did not desire to stay with it, and at an early age it was doubly orphaned.

The Good Lady, my Wife, acted as a parent to it in its extreme youth, and when it could fend for itself it was put into the fowl house. It absolutely refused to join The Gang therein kept, so, it being the one and only turkey we had, it was allowed the freedom of the garden. The Cocks and Hens have a field to roam in, my garden being wire-netted all round, except the gates, so they live outside and are better there, for hens and gardeners do not agree.

This young turkey has become surprisingly tame; tame in the correct sense of the word. It never comes into the house or the verandah, but if called it will come to the steps and in a dignified way accept something to eat. It never presses for food like so many of the feathered kind, it takes what is given and retires gracefully.

When anyone goes into the garden it follows them about, not pressingly by just gently follows picking up a blade of grass or an insect here and there as though it were a casual meeting and it were following its usual method of obtaining a living. When I go out with a spade it casually wanders up and inspects crictically any digging I do, taking an odd insect it finds, not glutonously, but evidently as a tribute to my powers as a son of Eve.

It in no way objects to being lifted up and carried from one place to another. It never flutters or makes a fuss. It has a curious desire to pluck the ring I wear from off my finger, and when I am going up the rose bushes it pecks softle at this ring; why, I have no idea, for long ago it must have found it could not eat it.

We have never made a special pet of it nor treated it in any way other than an ordinary bird. It is, I think, the gregarious urge inborn in it, for, not finding any of its kind on the place it attached itself to the Home folks.

What I admire about it, is its independence. It has none of the jostling spirit that so many fowls and human beings mistake for independence. It does everything quietly and nicely. It allows the two pigeons my servant keeps to feed along with it from the dish and has no fear of the dogs. No greed, no fear, no side, just a calm air to everyone as though to say, I see you my friend, and I am here and pleased with your company and feel friendly towards you as you doubtless feel towards me. Its that air that gives it such a charm.

A friend said, that in passing my garden the other day he noticed me pottering about attended by three bull terriers, two pigeons and a turkey; what was the idea? So I said we all like good company.

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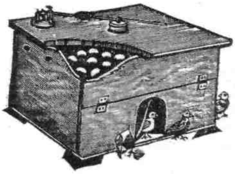

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IGATPURI G. I. P.

12.

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he paid the neighbour a call which cost his friend several hundred valuable chicks. An instance of how necessary it is to be on guard against infection. I may add that the large brooder house has at no time appealed to me for the simple reason that if infection of any sort is started it is so difficult to control and secondly in the case of a fire or gale all your chicks are in the one house and suffer. Small houses for a single batch are in my opinion much to be preferred.

While on this subject I would suggest to all poultry keepers in the East that if they have been troubled with infectious chick ailments that they should try rearing the chicks intensively until they are about ten weeks old. In fact, in those places where trouble has been caused by Ranikhet disease, the keeping of all poultry on the intensive system would in all probability be the most successful means of combating the disease. The intensive system, both for rearing young chicks and the keeping of adult stock, is being very much boosted here in England just now, as only during the last few years has it been found possible to rear chicks successfully by this system. While in India I often reared stock and kept them intensively and know many others who did the same. This year again I have reared many hundred chicks in houses of my own design, the chicks being kept entirely in the houses until they are about ten to twelve weeks old. The chief points to bear in mind are that the stock must have sunshine, a dry floor with a dry roof overhead. For the plains of India nothing would be better than a simple structure with wire netting walls and a good sound roof of corrugated iron. If a wooden floor is used, have the whole structure raised a foot or so from the ground. If an earth floor, make absolute certain that clean soil is laid for a depth of a foot; have the soil brought from as far as possible from human habitations. An iron roof would require shading in the hot weather. The structures that they used at the U. P. P. A. Farm for the egg laying competitions (I don't know if they have them still), should be ideal for the intensive rearing of chicks.

At a later date I will say something in respect to battery brooding of chicks, a method which is spreading fast in America and England.

Culling Young Stock.—A readed of the "I.P.G." has written to me asking for advice in regard to selecting his best R. I. Reds and Buff Rocks before they are fully matured; in other words he wants to know which are the culls or duds that can be discarded to make more room for the good birds. A few months back I advised one reader by letter on this subject, so perhaps this time I had better reply in these notes. My correspondent apparently keeps the two breeds that require more care in culling than most of the popular breeds. First of all, for all breeds type, or perhaps we had better call it "shape" in view of a recent controversy on the subject, must be studied. At three months the bird should shew within a little whether it is going to be a dud in this respect. Those breeds for which a normal length of leg is required, the extra long legged ones can be cast out first; then those with twisted toes, if any. Next, those which should have a long body you can discard any have a roundish or cobby appearance but go a bit steady here; those for which you want a cobby body, cast out those extra long bodied birds, as though they may be good layers they are not the shape the standard demands. Now the head. A good headpiece sets off a bird no matter what breed. Those with side sprigs on comb, or extra large combs considering the breed can go. The large and ugly headed birds also can go out. After which, we come to the feathering, and must not generalise, but treat each breed according to its standard, and I will confine my remarks now to the two breeds mentioned by my correspondent. First the R. I. Red. First of all set aside those shewing no signs of defects in colour. What? got none? Well they are pretty scarce. Alright, throw out any birds that may be more black than red and you will have a few of these if you have been breeding to maintain a deep red colour. Then throw out those with black on breast and wingbows; those with ginger necks; very smoky undercolour at root of tail; light breast (provided the chicks have got their second lot of feathers). Don't discard cockerels that have a little ticking in the neck hackle as this sometimes does not appear when the bird gets its adult plumage. You can clear out the above, as well as those whose undercolour is very smutty in general, and rest assured you have not cast out a likely winner of the Viceroy's Cup. Those with other defects less obvious I advise the novice to retain; in

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2.

TYPE.

Much has been written about "type" and it is such an important point we make no apology in referring to it in this issue. Type, as applied to live-stock, means the "general form or structure" and no bird can be a typical specimen unless it possesses the distinctive characters of the breed to which it belongs. Many fanciers never really appear to get a very definite idea of what type really is. All breeds are bred to a certain type or standard, and any bird that does not show that type in some degree is of little value and certainly no use to breed from.

Fanciers should endeavour to get to understand thoroughly the type of the variety in which they are

(*See on next page*).

(*Continued from previous page*).

fact, with the R. I. R. the novice will do well to retain practically all until they are fully matured, casting out only the deformed and those that are "A too bad for words" in regard to colour.

With the Buff Rock, here again for the novice it is well to follow the advice given in the last sentence. An occasional bird, especially male, will however be much too brassy or harsh and uneven colour and conspicuous among the remainder that he can be thrown out. There are other defects that the youngsters carry that they will continue to have when fully matured, but as with the Red the novice should go slowly. Any black in plumage calls for culling, but I don't advise culling a young buff solely on account of a little black peppering. What is wanted is one even shade of buff throughout and goodness knows it is difficult enough to get. The particular shade of buff is not so important as the evenness; although a nice golden buff cockerel is very pleasing to the eye it is not the shade that is always favoured by the judge in this country.

Specialist Breed Books.—Yet another enquiry, this time for a special book dealing with breeding, hatching, rearing, culling and general instructions for the care of R. I. Reds. I am sending my correspondent such a book and trust that it will be helpful to him. At the same time it must be emphasized that the R. I. Red requires no different treatment in the way of hatching, rearing and general treatment than the majority of breeds. True the Red requires special knowledge to mate up a pen successfully, while it is a difficult breed to cull with certainty, but of the dozens of specialist breed books I have read I cannot say that I can recommend one of them as being likely to show you a sound and practical hint that can not be obtained from a good general poultry book. Many of these books have the opposite effect to that intended; they present so many difficulties to the novice that he is disheartened and gives up his hobby or breed for another one.

Eggs not Hatching.—Finally, one of my correspondents writes me saying "the eggs from my special pullet which has won for me 1st and specials do not hatch out more than 40 to 50%. The eggs are of a beautiful pink colour and a little more than 2 ozs. in weigtht." He asks whether there is anything to remedy this. Provided the egg is as stated only just a little over 2 ounces in weight there is nothing in its weight or colour to account for bad hatchability. If that "little more" means a quarter of an ounce or more, then that may affect it. The vitality of the chick due to the father, mother, or bad conditions under which incubated may be to blame, and I should imagine that the remedy lies in putting right one or more of these three. Was the mother in too fat or possibly a too poor condition? Was the father provided with too many or too few wives? If a R. I. Red or Sussex, a cockerel in good condition should have not less than 8 wives and can take up to 12 with advantage. If a Leghorn from 15 to 20. Being a special hen possibly she has received special and favourite treatment on too fatty or starchy housescraps which would help to place her out of condition for producing the best hatchable eggs. But, why worry? 40 or 50% is not too bad from a special hen. With one of my special Red pullets of 1929 I failed to get more than 25% chicks from her eggs except in the case of the last lot set when every egg of hers hatched, ten of them. Her eggs were round about 2½ ounces (she started off by laying an egg of 2¼ ounces) but as the weather warmed up the size dropped a bit, and to that I attribute the good results from the last lot set, or rather that plus better hatching weather.

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12.

THE MOULT.

The moulting season is now with us, and, if we have managed our farms properly and if the birds are well handled now, we should see them in production again within six or seven weeks. Bad handling of the birds at any time, and especially during the moult, robs the egg-basket to an alarming degree, for the moult may last for months if the birds are underfed or out of condition.

The moult is a perfectly natural function, and the birds will not need any special treatment to bring them properly through it, provided they have been well fed and are in good condition at the start, but if, even then, they hang in the moult we should look for other causes besides the feeding. For one thing the birds may be infested with lice or other insect pests, and the irritation will cause loss of vitality and vigour.

Normally birds will not moult until towards the end of July or early August, although an unexpected spell of heat, sickness, fright, sudden changes in the feeding will adversely affect egg production and the birds will probably moult as a result at a time when the egg baskets should be full. On the other hand it is uneconomical to let the birds moult late, especially in the case of those reserved for breeding, as just when we require them in the breeding pen they are either not laying or, having laid so long into the autumn, the strain on them has been too much, so that when they do lay, their eggs are difficult to hatch and the chicks troublesome to rear. By confining these late moulters to a farm house and completely changing the diet, the desired end will generally be achieved.

So many people believe that birds shed their feathers and new ones grow, but this is not so. Feathers are of continuous growth, the down of the chicken being the first portion, and in the moult the feathers merely break off and new portions appear. While hens are producing heavily the growth of the feather is retarded, and it is only when production decreases that the feathers grow more rapidly and the moult ensues. To help the birds through this period they must be given a nourishing diet, but not a forcing one, and the egg baskets will soon be filled again.

(*Continued from previous page*).

interested, and to breed only from specimens which are very near to the standard that is required. By following this rule they will in time get birds that will breed "true to type." We are of opinion that you cannot put birds together that are too good, (the best are none too good) in shape, size, stamina and character as the best results are always invariably obtained from the best specimens. Briefly, it will always prove the most satisfactory to breed birds that are correct in shape and form, even if they fail in other respects. One may take liberties with sizs, colour, head points, etc., so long as the fault does not occur in both sides of the pen. But it is fatal to experiment with a bird that lacks type, because the result is certain to be offspring lacking in type and type makes the breed.

Type must be prominent in every stock bird, and the art of breeding lies in combining type with stamina, other qualities being built up and developed afterwards. The aim should be to improve not only the type, colour markings, and general contour of the variety one is interested in—to make it a thing of beauty—but also to improve the usefulness and profit-making possibilities of the breed.

In selecting the birds for breeding, type, size, constitution, vigour, size and number of eggs are all closely connected the one with the other, and unless they are given due weight and consideration in mating up the breeding pen a strain of reliable layers can neither be built up or maintained. Promiscuous mating is not good enough; pedigree must be studied together with standard requirements, taking every care to select only the best and most vigorous as you will then increase stamina, as well as uniformity and other desirable qualities. Keep this in mind, and with perseverance you will get there.

? ? ?

Questions under this heading are answered free of charge on this page.

Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,

C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Mr. K. Singh. *Juanpur.*—If the average weight of the eggs selected at random is 8 to 9 to the lb. I should not worry if I were you, I should be rather the reverse as it is a very good average.

Miss K. *Pakala.*—Your three acres would suffice for about 300 birds and you would need for this number presuming they will be colony housed, a house of about 90 by 10 by 6 ft. for roosting and laying accomodation. Suitable breeds. Wh. Leghorn, R. I. Reds, Minorcas or Light Sussex in order of merit. Stock, connsult the Gazette.

Mr. P. *Jhansi.*—As the birds have such fine free range they will pick up a great amount of food during the day so that I suggest ¾oz. grain in the morning, ¼oz. at midday and as much soft mash last thing at night as they will clear in 4-5mts. will be ample. At present you are slightly overfeeding. I take it they have abundant fresh water supply.

Mr. V. De Sa. *Assagao.*—The proportion of coarse ground maize is too big and you will be fattening the birds too much. I suggest you cut Maize to 40 lbs. and increase Wheat to 40 lbs. Though Cod Liver Oil is a fine food it is advisable to give plenty of fresh green food. If greenstuff is hard to get why not sprout your own and feed it to them. Sprouted oats twice a week will make a great difference. Re: the chick feed you do not give a good variety of grains but from those available I suggest, Cracked Wheat 4 lbs. Cracked Maize 2 lbs., Cracked Gram 1 lb., Linseed 1 lb., Fish meal 1 lb., usual salt, etc.

Mr. T. *Calcutta.*—The male will not be in any way affected by running with hens of a different breed and when mated with pure bred females of his own breed will breed true providing of course these females have not been running with a male of a different breed.

Mr. W. *Andheri.*—I think the best way out of your difficulty would be to give the houses a floor facing of cement and to paint the bottom of the house with anticorrosive paint for a distance of 2 ft. up. White ants are not injurious to poultry on the other hand they are very nutritious and the birds will hunt them out.

Mr. S. *Kamptee.*—I am almost certain the trouble is lice or hen flee, possibly Red mite. Inspect your houses and see if in the crevices round the perches there are small parasites that crawl over your hand and irritate. Lime wash the houses making sure to get into all the cracks. Next examine the birds. Look under the wings and around the neck. If parasites are present dip your birds in a solution of Izal 10% and hold them under for 10-15 seconds making sure they are immersed right up to the head but be careful of the eyes. Provide good ash or dust baths to which some good insecticide has been added.

Mr. D. *Ambala.*—The great trouble in your case will be insufficient capital and unless you have at least a further sum of say Rs. 5,000/- I do not advise you to think of a scheme of this size. I don't like to tread on the toes of an enthusiast but nevertheless in your own interest I say don't attempt your present plan without more capital.

Mrs. T. *Darjeeling.*—The mash sample sent seems to me to be composed of two or three English meals in addition to the Wheat bran and maize. It is a very good combination and should answer both as wet and dry. If used dry I should limit the birds to 1 hour 4 time a day.

Mr. J. *Chandpur.*—You should have found this out before. I have had 2 machines under test during the off season and I could probably have tested and found out what was wrong with yours and have corrected the irregularity for you. As you want to use it now give me a temperature chart for 1 week showing the temperature every 4 hours inside the egg drawer and also at the same time a reading of the room temperature. This machine uses about ¾ pint water daily on an average in a dry atmosphere.

Mr. V. *Khulna.*—Biscuit Meal 3 parts, Ata 1 part, Horse Pea 1 part (ground), Fish Meal 1 part, Bran 4 parts, Salt and powdered charcoal also the addition of a good spice.

(2) The complaint with your fowls is apparently avian tubercolosis. It may be in the stock birds or through wet and damp houses and not sufficient sunlight (though not the fierce midday rays). I advise the complete change of ground and you should *burn* each bird you notice affected. Add cod liver oil to the mash and see all houses and bedding warm and dry, are facing South and that you provide some means of shade from the midday heat. Give only clean fresh drinking water to which has been added sufficient Pott. Permang. to slightly tint the water only.

(3) The Chittagong will not answer your purpose, you should cross with Leghorn or R. I. Red or else go in for one of the latter pure breeds.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

With reference to Capt. Ansell's letter on the subject of naming the cross breed may I quote a passage from a work on cross breeds by one of the world's foremost writers on the subject, Mr. Will Hooley.

"To give an example of cross breeds a Wyandotte cockerel mated to a Leghorn hen would be a Wyandotte-Leghorn cross, the name of the cockerel always taking first place."

Next I turn to a book by a well known author under a Nom-de-plum who writes.

"In breeding and cross breeding poultry the male is half the flock and it is for this reason that in discussing a cross you would always give the male side of the cross the first half.

I have always myself in my many experiments found that the characteristics of the male predominate considerably and only this year in an experiment with a white pure bred male mated to a trio of black country fowls all the offspring male and female throw white or 95% white, only the males having a slight colouring of black in saddle feathering.

I don't care whether it is poultry, dog, horse, or cattle breeding the male is the first named in ALL cases and as I have been asked this question by "Puzzled" I stick to what I informed him. The male is to be named first in all your cross breeding activities Mr. "Puzzled."

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